

THE FIRST
CATECHISM
OF THE
PRINCIPLES
OF
RELIGION:

OR,
The Catechism for a YOUNG CHILD, to be
begun at three or four Years old.

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

THE
SECOND CATECHISM
OF THE
PRINCIPLES OF RELIGION:

OR
The CATECHISM for *Children*, which they
may begin at seven or eight Years old,
according to their different Capacities.

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THE FIRST

CATHOLIC

OF THE

PRINCIPLES

RELIGION

The Commission for Young Catholics
of the United States



SECOND

PRINCIPLES OF RELIGION

The Commission for Young Catholics
of the United States
has begun its work on the
principles of the Catholic religion.

J. W. A. T. S. D.

THE
FIRST CATECHISM
OF THE
PRINCIPLES OF RELIGION:

OR,

The Catechism for a young Child, to be
begun at three or four Years old.

1 Question. **C**AN you tell me, Child who
made you?

Answer. The great God, who made
Heaven and Earth.

2 Q. What doth God do for you?

A. He keeps me from Harm by Night
and by Day, and is always doing me Good.

3 Q. And what must you do for this great
God who is so good to you?

A. I must learn to know him first, and
then I must do every Thing to please him.

4 Q. Where doth God teach us to know
him and to please him?

A

4 *The young Child's CATECHISM.*

A. In his holy word which, is contained in the Bible.

5 *Q.* Have you learned to know who God is?

A. God is a Spirit; and though we cannot see him, yet he sees and knows all Things, and he can do all Things.

6 *Q.* What must you do to please God?

A. I must do my Duty both towards God and towards Man.

7 *Q.* What is your Duty to God?

A. My Duty to God, is to fear and honour him, to love and serve him, to pray to him, and to praise him.

8 *Q.* What is your Duty to Man?

A. My Duty to Man, is to obey my Parents, to speak the Truth always, and to be honest and kind to all.

9 *Q.* What Good do you hope for by seeking to please God?

A. Then I shall be a Child of God, and have God for my Father and my Friend for ever.

10 *Q.* And what if you do not fear God, nor love him, nor seek to please him?

A. Then I shall be a wicked Child, and the great God will be very angry with me.

11. *Q.* Why are you afraid of God's Anger?

A.

A. Because he can kill my Body, and he can make my Soul miserable after my Body is dead.

12 *Q.* But have you never done any thing to make God angry with you already?

A. Yes, I fear I have too often sinned against God, and deserved his Anger.

13 *Q.* What do you mean by sinning against God?

A. To sin against God, is to do any thing that God forbids me, or not to do what God commands me.

14 *Q.* And what must you do to be saved from the anger of God which your Sins have deserved?

A. I must be sorry for my Sins, I must pray to God to forgive me what is past, and serve him better for the Time to come.

15 *Q.* Will God forgive you if you pray for it?

A. I hope he will forgive me, if I trust in his Mercy for the sake of what Jesus Christ has done, and what he has suffered.

16 *Q.* Do you know who Jesus Christ is?

A. He is God's own Son, who came down from Heaven to save us from our Sins, and from God's Anger.

17 *Q.* What has Christ done towards the saving of Men?

A

6 *The young Child's CATECHISM.*

A. He obeyed the Law of God himself, and hath taught us to obey it also.

18 *Q.* *And what has Christ suffered in order to save Men?*

A. He died for Sinners who have broke the Law of God, and who deserved to die themselves.

19 *Q.* *Where is Jesus Christ now?*

A. He is alive again, and gone to Heaven, to provide a Place there for all that serve God, and love his Son Jesus.

20 *Q.* *Can you of yourself love and serve God and Christ?*

A. No, I cannot do it of myself, but God will help me by his own Spirit if I ask him for it.

20 *Q.* *Will Jesus Christ ever come again?*

A. Christ will come again, and call me and all the World to account for what we have done.

22 *Q.* *For what Purpose is this Account to be given?*

A. That the Children of God, as well as the Wicked, may all receive according to their Works.

23 *Q.* *What must become of you if you are wicked?*

A. If I am wicked I shall be sent down to everlasting.

everlasting Fire in Hell among wicked and miserable Creatures.

24 Q. *And whither shall you go if you are a Child of God?*

A. If I am a Child of God I shall be taken up to Heaven, and dwell there with God and Christ for ever. *Amen.*



THE JEWELLED CATHEDRAL

everlasting fire in Hell among wicked and
unbelieving creatures.
Q. And what shall you do if you
are a Child of God?
A. If I am a Child of God I shall be
taken up to Heaven, and dwell there with
God and Christ for ever. Amen.



THE
SECOND CATECHISM
OF THE
PRINCIPLES of RELIGION:
OR

The CATECHISM, for *Children*, which they may begin at seven or eight Years old, according to their different Capacities.

I Question. **D**EAR Child, do you know what you are ?

Answer. I am a creature of God, for he made me both Body and Soul.

2 Q. How do you know you have a Soul ?

A. Because I find something within me that can think and know, can wish and desire, can rejoice and be sorry, which my Body cannot do.

B

3 Q. Wherein

3 Q. Wherein doth your Soul differ further from your Body ?

A. My Body is made of Flesh and Blood, and it will die ; but my Soul is a Spirit, and it will live after my Body is dead.

4 Q. For what Purpose did God make you such a Creature with a Body and a soul ?

A. To know him, and serve him here on Earth, that I may dwell with him, and be happy hereafter in Heaven.

5 Q. How must you learn to know God and serve him ?

A. by the Holy Scriptures of the old and New Testament, which are the Word of God.

6 Q. What do the Scriptures teach you of the Knowledge of God ?

A. The Scriptures teach me what God is in Himself, and what he is in relation to us who are his Creatures.

7 Q. Who is God, considered in himself or in his own Nature ?

A. God

A. God in his own Nature is a Spirit, every where present, without Beginning and without End, most wise and powerful, most holy and merciful, most just and true.

8 Q. What is God in relation to us who are his Creatures ?

A. As the great God is our Maker who gave us our being, so he continually preserves us and does us Good : He is our Lord and Ruler now, and he will be our Judge at last.

9 Q. And how do the Scriptures teach you to serve God ?

A. I must serve God by keeping all his Commandments ; that is, by doing every thing that he desires of me, and avoiding every thing that he forbids me.

10 Q. What Commandments has God given to Men ?

A. He gave the Law of the Ten Commandments to the *Jews* in the Old Testament, and they are summed up in two Commandments for us in the New Testament.

11. Q. Repeat

11. Q. Repeat the Ten Commandments of God in short, which he gave in the Old Testament. What is the first Commandment?

A. Thou shalt have no other Gods before me.

12 Q. What is the second Commandment.

A. Thou shalt not make to thyself any graven Image, or the likenels of any Thing in Heaven or Earth, to bow down and worship it.

13 Q. What is the third Commandment?

A. Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain.

14 Q. What is the fourth Commandment?

A. Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy.

15 Q. What is the fifth Commandment?

A. Honour

A. Honour thy Father and thy Mother
that thy Days may be long.

16 Q. What is the sixth Commandment?

A. Thou shalt do no Murder.

17 Q. What is the seventh Commandment?

A. Thou shalt not commit Adultery.

18 Q. What is the eighth Commandment?

A. Thou shalt not steal.

19 Q. What is the ninth Commandment?

A. Thou shalt not bear false Witness
gainst thy Neighbour.

20 Q. What is the tenth Commandment?

A. Thou shalt not covet any Thing that
thy Neighbour's.

21 Q. What is the Sum of these ten Commandments

mandments, which is given us in the New Testament ?

A. The Sum of the ten Commandments is, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy Heart, and thou shalt love thy Neighbour as thyself."

22 *Q.* What do you mean by loving God with all your Heart.

A. To love God with all my Heart, is to have the highest and best Thoughts of him ; to desire his Favour above all Things, and delight to please him always.

23 *Q.* How must you shew your love to God ?

A. By these three Things.

1. By paying him constantly the Worship that he requires of me.
2. By doing heartily whatsoever else he commands me.
3. By bearing patiently what he suffers to befall me.

24 *Q.* What Worship doth God require of you ?

A. I

A. I must hearken diligently to his Holy Word, and praise him for his Greatness and Goodness; I must pray to him daily for what Mercies I want, and give him Thanks for what I receive.

25 Q. And what do you mean by loving your Neighbour as yourself?

A. To love my neighbour as myself, is to do to all other Persons as I could reasonably desire them to do to me, if I were in their place.

26 Q. How must you shew your Love to your Neighbour?

A. These three ways.

1. By honouring and obeying those that are set over me.

2. By speaking the Truth, and dealing honestly with all who are about me.

3. By wishing well and doing Good to all Mankind, whether they be Friends, Strangers or Enemies.

27 Q. You have told me the duties you must do; can you tell me also the Sins that you must avoid?

A. I

A. I must avoid all the Sins of the Heart, the Sins of the Tongue, and the sinful Actions of Life.

28 Q. What are the Sins of the Heart,

A. The Sins of the Heart are these, a Neglect of God, Pride and Stubbornness, Malice and envy, with all other evil Thoughts and unruly Passions.

29 Q. What are the chief Sins of the Tongue?

A. The chief Sins of the Tongue are Swearing and Cursing, abusing the Name of God or any Thing that is holy, scoffing and calling ill Names, Lying and filthy speaking.

30 Q. What are those sinful Actions which you must avoid?

A. Sinful Actions are such as these, Gluttony, Drunkenness, and Quarrelling, wanton Carriage and Mispending of Time, especially the Lord's-day, doing Dishonour to God, or Injury to Man.

31 Q. Have

31 Q. Have you never broke the Commands of God, and sinned against him?

A. My own Heart and Conscience tell me that I have broke God's holy Commandments, and sinned against him both in Thought, Word and Deed.

32 Q. How do you know that you have sinned in thought, Word and Deed, against the blessed God?

A. I have let evil Thoughts run too much in my Mind, and spoken too many evil Words: I have too often done such deeds as are evil, and neglected what is good.

33 Q. Whence comes it to pass that you have been such a Sinner?

A. I was born into the World with Inclinations to that which is Evil, and I have too much followed these Inclinations all my Life.

34 Q. How came you to be born with such Inclinations to Evil?

C

A. All

A. All Mankind are born in Sin, because they come from *Adam*, the first Man, who sinned against God.

35 Q. But why did you follow these evil Inclinations? Was it not your Duty to resist them when you knew they were Evil?

A. I ought to resist every sinful Inclination, and therefore I have no sufficient Excuse for myself before the great God.

36 Q. What do you deserve because of your sins?

A. My Sins have deserved the Wrath and Curse of the Almighty God who made me.

37 Q. Is the Wrath of God so terrible that you cannot bear it?

A. The Wrath of God is terrible indeed, for he can make Sinners suffer all the Miseries of this Life, the Pains of Death, and the Torments of Hell for ever.

38 Q. How

38 Q. How do you hope to escape God's Wrath, which your Sins have deserved?

A. God is merciful, and has sent Jesus Christ into this World to become the Saviour of sinful Creatures, as the Gospel teaches us.

39 Q. What is the Gospel?

A. The Gospel is the glad Tidings of the Way of Salvation by Jesus Christ, which was foretold in the Old Testament, but is plainly revealed in the New.

40 Q. Who is Jesus Christ?

A. Jesus Christ is the Son of God, who was with God before the world was made; but he became the Son of Man, and dwelt with Men above seventeen hundred Years ago.

41 Q. But is not Jesus Christ God as well as Man?

A. Though he be Man, yet he is God also; for he is a glorious Person, in whom
God

God and Man are joined together, and his Name is IMMANUEL, or God with us.

42 Q. What did Jesus Christ do on Earth in order to save Sinners?

A. He did three Things.

(1.) He made known to Man the Will of God by his Preaching.

(2.) He set them a Pattern of Holiness by his own Practice.

(3.) He obtained Pardon of Sin and everlasting Life for them by his Obedience unto Death.

43 Q. How could Christ obtain Pardon and Life for us by his doing or suffering?

A. Our Sins had deserved Death, but Christ was the Son of God, and perfectly righteous, and God appointed him to suffer Death to take away our Sins, and to bring us into his Favour.

44 Q. Is Jesus Christ now among the Dead?

A. No

A. No; he arose from the Dead on the third Day, and afterward went up to Heaven to dwell at the right hand of God.

45 Q. What is Christ now doing in Heaven.

A. He Pleads with God his Father to bestow Mercy on Men, and he rules over all Things for the Good of his People.

46 Q. What must you do to become one of his People, and to partake of this Mercy?

A. I must repent of my Sins, and confess them before God, and ask Pardon for them; I must have Faith in Christ as my Saviour, and obey him as my Lord and Ruler.

47 Q. What is it to repent of Sin?

A. To repent of my Sins, is to be sorry at my Heart that I have offended God, to hate every Thing that displeases him,

him, and to take heed that I offend him no more.

48 Q. What is it to have Faith in Christ as your Saviour?

A. To have Faith in Christ as my Saviour, is to believe that Christ is the Saviour of Sinners, and to give myself up to him, and trust in him, that he may save me in his own way.

49 Q. What reason have you to hope that you shall then be delivered from the Anger of God?

A. If we repent of Sin, and trust in Christ, God hath told us in his Word that he will forgive our sins and save our Souls.

50 Q. But is not your Heart itself sinful, and have you Power of yourself to repent of Sin, and to trust in Christ, and obey him?

A. We have sinful Hearts, and cannot do these Duties of ourselves; but God has promised his own Holy Spirit,
if

if we pray for it, to renew our Hearts to Holiness, and help us to do his Will.

51 Q. How must you offer up your Prayers, so as to be accepted of God and obtain his Holy Spirit or any Blessings from him ?

A. In all our Prayers and all our Services we must seek for Acceptance only from the Mercy of God, and for the Sake of Christ ; for we have sinned and deserve no good Thing.

52 Q. Hath God provided any other Means for our Help in the Way to Heaven ?

A. God hath given his holy Word both to Jews and Christians ; he hath sent his Ministers to help us to understand his Word, and appointed some special Signs and Tokens of his Mercy for our Use.

53 Q. What are the special Signs and Tokens which God hath appointed,
to

to shew forth his Mercy among Christians?

A. There are two Signs or Tokens which are commonly called Sacraments of the New Testament, and these are BAPTISM and the LORD'S SUPPER.

54 Q. What is Baptism?

A. It is a Washing with Water in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

55 Q. What is meant by this Washing.

A. It signifies our being cleansed from Sin, and our becoming new Creatures, and the Disciples of Christ.

56 Q. Why must we be baptised in the Name of the Father?

A. Because it was God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who appointed this Salvation; and He is our Father also, if we are true Christians.

57 Q. Why

57 Q. Why must we be baptized in the Name of the Son of God?

A. Because this Salvation was preached by the Son of God as our Great Prophet, he procured it for us as our High Priest, and he bestows it on us as our Lord and King.

58 Q. Why must it be done also in the Name of the Holy Spirit?

A. Because the wondrous Works of the Holy Spirit bore witness to this Salvation heretofore; and it is this Holy Spirit enables us to obey the Gospel now, and to hope and wait for this Salvation.

59 Q. What doth this Baptism in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, oblige you to do?

A. If I am baptized, I am given up to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, that I may live as a new Creature and a Christian; and having been once washed, I must not defile myself again with Sin.

D

60 Q. What

60 Q. What is the Lord's Supper?

A. It is the eating of Bread and drinking of Wine in Remembrance of the Death of our Lord Jesus Christ.

61 Q. What doth the Bread signify?

A. The Bread when it is broken signifies the Body of Christ, which was wounded or broken on the Cross for us.

62 Q. What doth the Wine signify?

A. The Wine poured out into the Cup, signifies the Blood of Christ, which was poured out in his Death to take away our Sins.

63 Q. Why must the Bread be eaten, and the Wine be drank?

A. To signify our partaking of the Blessings which Christ hath obtained for us by his Death.

64 Q. What doth the Lord's Supper oblige us to?

A. Those who partake of the Lord's Supper, should thankfully remember the Love of Christ who died for them; and they should love and serve him to the End of their Lives.

65 Q. When you have done the Will of God, and served Christ to the End of your Life, what are your Hopes after Death?

A. When my Body dies, and my Soul goes into the world of Spirits, I hope it shall dwell with God and Christ, and be happy.

66 Q. And do you not expect some greater happiness afterward?

A. Yes; I hope for more complete Happiness when my body shall rise again, and be joined to my Spirit at the Day of Judgment.

67 Q. But let us hear first what is this World of Spirits you speak of, whither the Soul goes at Death?

A. It

A. It is a very large World, though it is out of sight, in which there are different Dwellings for Angels and Devils, and for the Souls of Men both good and bad.

68 Q. Who or what are Angels ?

A. They are good Spirits who wait on God, and worship him in Heaven, but they are often sent down to do Service here on Earth.

69 Q. Who or what are Devils ?

A. They are evil Spirits, who were at first Angels of God, but having sinned against him, they were cast out of Heaven, and now they are always tempting Men to sin.

70 Q. But are not all these Spirits, both good and evil, put under the Dominion of Christ ?

A. Yes Christ is Lord over them all : He employs the Angels for the Good of his

his People ; and the Devils can do no Mischief, but when Christ suffers them.

71 Q. What will become of the Devils at last ?

A. They are now kept as Prisoners for some greater Punishment after the Judgment-day.

72 Q. When will this day of Judgment come, when you said your Body shall rise from the Dead ?

A. At the end of the World Jesus Christ shall come down from Heaven to judge all Mankind ; and for that Purpose he shall raise all that are dead to Life again.

73 Q. What shall be done to Mankind, when the Dead are raised to Life ?

A. Christ shall call them all to appear before his Seat of Judgment, where both the Righteous and the Wicked must give an Account to him of their Behaviour in this World.

74 Q. How

74 Q. How will the Righteous appear at that Day ?

A. The Righteous shall appear with Courage and Joy, as the Children of God, who have done the Will of their heavenly Father, and are made like him in Holiness.

75 Q. And how will the Wicked appear then ?

A. The Wicked shall stand before the Judge with Fear and Shame, like Children of the Devil ; for they have done his Will, and are like him in sinful Works.

76 Q. And how will Christ the Judge dispose of Men, and deal with them in Judgment ?

A. He will place the Righteous at his right hand, and Wicked on the left, and will pass a Sentence on them both, according as their Works have been.

77 Q. After the Judgment, what shall become of the Wicked ?

A. The

A. The Wicked shall be driven into Hell fire, both Soul and Body to be tormented with the Devil and wicked Spirits for ever.

78 Q. And what shall be done to the Righteous ?

A. The Lord Jesus Christ shall carry the Righteous up with him to Heaven, both Soul and Body, to live there with God their Father, and with his holy Angels, in everlasting Joy. *Amen.*



THE CHURCH OF THE FUTURE

The Wicked shall be as chaff, and the Righteous shall be as a tree, which shall be planted for ever.

And when shall be done to him.

THE CHURCH OF THE FUTURE
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101